SAN ANTONIO-CLASS (LPD 17) AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT DOCK SHIP

The *San Antonio (LPD 17)* class of Amphibious Transport Dock ships represent the Department of the Navy's (DoN) commitment to a modern expeditionary power-projection fleet and will assist the Marine Corps' naval forces across the spectrum of warfare. The LPD 17 was delivered to the Navy in the summer 2005. The operational evaluation and first deployment of LPD 17 are both scheduled to occur during 2008. With the first three of nine currently scheduled ships of the class already commissioned, the LPD 17 class replaces four classes of older ships—the Amphibious Cargo Ship (LKA), Tank Landing Ship (LST), Dock Landing Ship (LSD) 36, and the Amphibious Transport Dock (LPD) 4 class—and has a 40-year expected service life.

The LPD 17 class ships play a key role in supporting the Global War on Terrorism by forward deploying Marines and their equipment to respond to crises world wide. Its unique design facilitates expanded force coverage and decreases reaction times of forward deployed Marine Expeditionary Units. In forcible entry operations, the LPD 17 helps maintain a robust surface assault and rapid off-load capability for the Marine Air Ground Task Force well into the future.

San Antonio class warships incorporate advanced characteristics for amphibious warships. Each ship has 699 enhanced berths for embarked Marines, plus a surge capacity of another 101 berths. They also have a vehicle-stowage capacity of 24,600 square feet, cargo-stowage capacity of more than 33,000 cubic feet, and a well-deck sized for two Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) or one Landing Craft Utility (LCU). Their flight decks can support operations by two CH-53E/K Super Stallions, two MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, or four CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters. The ships in this class are outfitted with two Rolling Airframe Missile launchers for self-defense and incorporate design features that present a significantly reduced radar cross-section compared to previous amphibious ships.